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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10964-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a tubular expandable framework having an outer surface and an inner surface and a plurality of interconnected struts, the struts comprising a plurality of serpentine bands and further comprising a connector strut attaching a peak of one serpentine band to a trough of another serpentine band, an outer covering of PTFE and an inner covering of PTFE, the outer covering extending along at least a portion of the outer surface of the expandable framework, the inner covering extending along at least a portion of the inner surface of the expandable framework, at least a portion of the inner and outer coverings being contiguous, the stent further comprising at least one radiopaque marker disposed between the inner covering and the outer covering, the radiopaque marker attached to the connector strut.
2. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the PTFE is in the form of expanded PTFE.
3. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is in the form of a radiopaque marker band.
4. (Original) The stent of claim 3 wherein the marker band is wound about a portion of the stent.
5. (Original) The stent of claim 3 wherein the marker band is crimped to the stent framework.
6. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is embedded in a portion of the stent framework.
7. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is located adjacent an uncovered region of the stent.
8. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is in the form of a radiopaque plug which is inserted into an opening in the stent framework.
9. (Original) The stent of claim 1 comprising a plurality of radiopaque markers.
10. (Original) The stent of claim 9 wherein the PTFE is in the form of expanded PTFE.
11. (Original) The stent of claim 10 wherein the PTFE on the outer surface and the PTFE on the inner surface of the framework are coextensive with one another.
12. (Original) The stent of claim 11 wherein at least some of the radiopaque markers indicate at least one end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces.
13. (Original) The stent of claim 11 wherein at least some of the radiopaque markers indicate a first end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces and others of the radiopaque markers

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indicate a second end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces.

14. (Original) The stent of claim 13 sized for use in a cranial vessel.

15. (Original) The stent of claim 1 sized for use in a cranial vessel.

16. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker does not protrude beyond the outer surface and inner surfaces of the stent framework.

17. (Original) The stent of claim 11 wherein the radiopaque markers do not protrude beyond the outer surface and inner surfaces of the stent framework.

18. (Original) The stent of claim 12 wherein the radiopaque marker do not protrude beyond the outer surface and inner surfaces of the stent framework.

19. (Original) The stent of claim 13 wherein the radiopaque marker do not protrude beyond the outer surface and inner surfaces of the stent framework.

20. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a tubular framework having an outer surface and an inner surface and a plurality of interconnected struts, the struts comprising a plurality of serpentine bands and further comprising a connector strut attaching a peak of one serpentine band to a trough of another serpentine band, an outer covering of PTFE and an inner covering of PTFE, the outer covering extending along at least a portion of the outer surface of the ~~expandable~~ framework, the inner covering extending along at least a portion of the inner surface of the ~~expandable~~ framework, at least a portion of the inner and outer coverings being contiguous, the ~~stent further comprising~~ connector strut having at least one marker which is radiopaque or which may be visualized using magnetic resonance imaging, the marker disposed between the inner covering and the outer covering.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of
providing a stent framework comprising a plurality of interconnected struts, the framework having an inner surface and an outer surface;
providing radiopacity to the stent framework in a desired region of the framework covering the inner surface of the stent framework in the desired region of the stent framework with PTFE;
covering the outer surface of the stent framework in the desired region of the stent framework with PTFE.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

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providing radiopacity to the stent framework in a plurality of desired regions;
covering the outer and inner surfaces of the stent framework with PTFE in each of the desired regions.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein the radiopacity is provided via radiopaque markers which are attached to the stent framework.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein each radiopaque marker is in the form of a radiopaque material which is wound around a portion of the stent framework.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein each radiopaque marker is in the form of a radiopaque plug which is inserted into an opening in the stent framework.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the radiopacity is provided in the form of a marker which marks an end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surface of the stent.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein the radiopacity is provided in the form of a plurality of markers which mark at least one end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surface of the stent.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27 wherein the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces of the stent are coextensive with one another.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces of the stent are coextensive with one another.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 wherein the PTFE on the inner surface is in the form of a first extruded tube of expanded PTFE and the PTFE on the outer surface is in the form of a second extruded tube of expanded PTFE.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the stent is sized for use in a cranial vessel.

32. (Currently amended) A covered stent comprising:

a stent framework having an interior surface, an exterior surface and a marker region, the framework comprising a plurality of serpentine bands and further comprising a connector strut attaching a peak of one serpentine band to a trough of another serpentine band;

at least one radiopaque marker located within the marker region of said framework, the marker attached to the connector strut; and

a covering of expanded PTFE covering the interior surface and exterior surface of

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said framework in the marker region.